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PATENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 18 beginning at line 1 with the following:

Bone and soft tissue grafts can be cleaned and processed using conventional methods, ~~including those described in~~. When processing using these methods the graft is plasticized by adding one or more plasticizers or a plasticizer composition to processing steps after bone cleaning is essentially completed, and prior to freeze-drying. Under freeze-drying, the water present in the bone (or smaller cut bone grafts produced from the essentially intact bone) is removed by sublimation, however, the glycerol will remain and replace the free and bound water as the water is removed from the bone tissue. The one or more plasticizer(s) is added to fully hydrated bone tissue and the plasticizer(s) are induced to penetrate into the bone tissue optionally using a permeation enhancer. Thus, the bone or soft tissue is dehydrated yet the materials properties of the bone tissue will be similar to the materials properties of normal bone or soft tissue, i.e. partially or fully hydrated bone or soft tissue. The produced plasticized bone or soft graft contains minimal quantities of the plasticizer(s) and can be removed from the package and directly implanted into a patient without rehydration. If the presence of these small quantities of glycerol is of concern, the bone or soft tissue grafts may be quickly rinsed and/or washed in sterile saline just prior to implantation.